Establishment and recognition of Catholic and Muhammadan schools in the Presidency.

* 60 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased—

(i) to place before the Council the orders and rules for giving facilities for the establishment, recognition and grant-in-aid of Catholic and Muhammadan schools in this Presidency; and

(ii) to state—

(*a*) whether representations have been made by Catholics or Muhammadans since last January urging the vagueness and inadequacy to meet the requirements of the orders and rules passed; and

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

A.—(i) G.O. No. 104, Education, dated 15th January 1929, laying down certain principles to be followed in granting recognition to Catholic schools in the South Kanara district and paying grants-in-aid to them is placed on the table [a]. No such special orders or rules have been issued in regard to Muhammadan schools.

(ii) (*a*) Representations have been received from Catholics.

(*b*) Action will be taken on receipt of the report on the working of the policy referred to in G.O. No. 104, dated 15th January 1929.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"With regard to sub-paragraph (1) of the Government Order (Mis. No. 104, Education, dated 15th January 1929), published as Appendix III, may I know what is meant by the phrase 'reasonable number' mentioned there? May I ask what number would be reasonable?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"With regard to sub-paragraph (3), may I enquire whether, in case where there is only one school in a locality for Muhammadans, recognition is given or not to a such separate Muhammadan school?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Muhammadans differ from Christians in this respect, that unlike Muhammadans Christians can talk the language of the locality."

Assent of His Excellency the Governor and His Excellency the Governor-General to the Madras University Amending Bill.

* 61 *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether there has been any correspondence between this Government on the one hand and His Excellency the Governor or Governor-General or the Government of India on the other regarding the Madras University Amending Bill and whether this Government know why the Bill has not yet been assented to by His Excellency the Governor and by His Excellency the Governor-General?

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[a] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 238–239 infra.

7th August 1929]

A.—As required by rule 2 (*b*) of the Reservation of Bills rules the Madras University (Amendment) Bill was reserved by His Excellency the Governor for the consideration of the Governor-General. The
71s Government of India have taken the view that the reference to the Indian Universities Act, 1904, in clause 2 (ii) (*e*) of the Bill is not in order as that Act has ceased to be in operation so far as the Madras University is concerned. It is therefore proposed to return the Bill to the Legislative Council for further consideration under section 81-A (2) (*a*) of the Government of India Act with suitable amendments.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know when this Bill is proposed to be brought to this Council for further consideration ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I believe it will be on 9th of this month."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether I can put a question to you, Sir, on the point ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member can come to me in my room and put the question. He cannot do it now."

Prevention of smoking in schools and colleges.

* 62 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a summary of the reports received from the Director of Public Instruction regarding the effect of his circular of 1925 in preventing smoking in schools and colleges ?

A.—A copy of the circular issued by the Director of Public Instruction in 1925 was placed on the table in answer to question No. 1528 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 27th February 1928. Reports as to the effect of the circular were received from 24 District Educational Officers, the Inspector of European Schools and Principals of forty-six colleges. The majority of reports were stereotyped and were to the effect—

(i) that the circular was put into force ;

(ii) that there was no difficulty in putting it into force ; and

(iii) that the circular had been instrumental in varying degrees in checking the habit of smoking by students in school premises and play-grounds. In a few cases it was reported—

(*i*) that though smoking in college premises and on play-grounds had been greatly checked, smoking ' on the sly ' was still going on outside ;

(*ii*) that home influence and moral persuasion would prove more effective in checking the evil than anything that could be done by school authorities ; and

(*iii*) that occasional lectures by doctors who were specialists on the subject would be beneficial.